

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 have been amended, claims 15-21 have been added and claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

Unless otherwise indicated in the Remarks set forth below, the amendments to the claims are made for the purpose of correcting informalities and/or to more clearly define the claimed invention, and are not made for the purpose of overcoming the cited art.

Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 2-9, 12 and 13 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 10, 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,266,486 to Fraatz et al. (hereinafter "Fraatz"). Claim 1 has been amended to include the features recited in claim 2, which the Office Action has indicated is allowable. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 10, 11 and 14 are also allowable as depending from allowable claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Added claims 15 and 16 include the features of claims 4 and 6, respectively, which the Office Action indicated are allowable.

Added claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, a bioreactor platform comprising at least one receptacle for housing a bioreactor, and at least one bioreactor positioned in a respective receptacle of the bioreactor platform. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art fails to teach or suggest these features. For example, although the Office Action asserts that Fig. 5 of Fraatz discloses these features, Fig. 5 of Fraatz simply shows a supporting rack 26. Fraatz does not teach or suggest at least one receptacle for housing a bioreactor, as recited in claim 17. The container 1 in Fraatz is supported by the flat surface of the supporting rack 26, rather than in a receptacle.

Applicant respectfully submits that added claims 18-21 are also allowable over the cited art. For example, claim 18 recites, *inter alia*, at least one dispenser positioned to selectively dispense a predetermined substance into the bioreactor. Fraatz fails to teach or suggest these features.

CONCLUSION

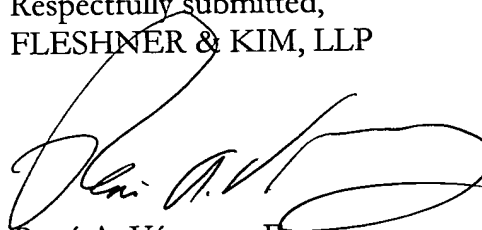
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, René A. Vázquez, Esq., at the telephone number listed below.

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Reply to Office Action of October 15, 2004

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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